

Montgomery County Sheriff Warns of 'Deputy Phone Scam'

SCAM Phone Calls AGAIN Demand Money to Prevent Arrest

Telephone scammers are again using the guise of a sheriff's deputy to extort people into immediately sending money to avoid arrest. According to Montgomery County, Maryland Sheriff Darren M. Popkin, a nationwide phone scam is again targeting Montgomery County, Maryland residents. In the last week, over 50 residents reported receiving a scam call requesting money or credit card information.

The caller, falsely claiming to be from the sheriff's office, says that a warrant issued for your arrest will be served unless, of course, you pay up. The caller may also be leaving voice mail messages with a call-back number that is answered by a realistic law enforcement sounding recorded announcement.

“Montgomery County Deputy Sheriffs will never call and threaten to arrest you unless you immediately send money or an electronic payment,” said Sheriff Popkin, reissuing a fraud alert previously released in April, 2014 and May, 2015. “Deputies will never ask you to place funds for payment on a pre-paid credit card to cancel an arrest warrant.” Do not provide any unsolicited caller demanding money any personal, credit card or bank information. If called, hang up immediately.

People can protect themselves from becoming victims of identity theft by never giving out any personal information when getting an unsolicited phone call. Giving out sensitive information over the phone — both personal and financial — can put people at risk for fraud.